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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1914.

All the rules of war are crooked.

Ostend isn't much of a health resort now.

Von Kluck hasn't yet been able to make the allies quail.

If an army loses its arms it will have to depend on its legs.

Another British cruiser has been landed in German waters.

Occasionally the German war statement tallies with that of the allies.

Boston is almost as proud of that baseball victory as if she had won a spelling match.

Ask advice of your friends. You don't have to take it, and it makes them feel better.

Correspondent wants to know who furnishes the brains of the Progressive party. Are there any?

Our pension roll is decreasing, but this doesn't give us an excuse for going to war with anybody.

Every time Mr. Henry tries to get his speech in the Congressional Record, cotton goes off a quarter of a cent.

We may not be able to stop the war in Europe, but we can quit talking about it so much. And that may help.

It remains to be seen whether prohibition in the Old Dominion will mean the passing of the Virginia reel.

We have never been able to understand why it is that some families seem to prefer phonographs to children?

We wouldn't advise you to adopt it as a profession. Jason, but a successful boxer makes money hand over fist.

Go ahead and make a stab at pronouncing those European war names. Nobody will know whether you are right or not.

Don't you think the White House ought to issue a statement bragging on the way Champ Clark has presided over the House?

It will be safe to pass the war tax bill now, as the voters will not be able to understand how hard it hits them until after the election.

This would be a good time to buy a summer suit, if it were not for the fact that those now on the market will be sure to be out of style next season.

North Carolina is still safely Democratic. J. E. Duckworth, of that State, called at the White House and pledged the votes of himself and eighteen sons to the President.

The head of a Chicago mail order house who died the other day left an estate valued at \$17,000,000. And the same week a man who had been doing on his trading with the mail order house died and didn't leave any estate at all.

With wonderful qualities a woman is endowed once she faces judge and jury charged with assassination. Gertrude Atherton, who is doing psychological analysis duty on a New York paper, describes the wife of a country doctor never before distinguished for anything, as her "beau ideal of your true aristocrat."

The woman's remarkable self possession apparently inspires Miss Atherton's description. It is difficult, though, to picture a "true aristocrat" secretly installing a dictograph in her husband's office that she might listen to conversation with his visitors and slapping the face of a nurse to whom he had loaned money.

As the result of the efforts of our Ambassador to England and other Americans in London and Brussels, 700,000 Belgians are to be saved from starvation, Germany having consented to an American commission undertaking the work of purchasing food with the various Belgian relief funds and forwarding it from England. Already \$1,250,000 is available and a fleet of steamers will soon be landing provisions at ports of Holland. Thus humanity will be spared the shocking spectacle of a nation destitute and starving for the sole reason that it resisted armed invasion of its soil in a quarrel of nations in which it was in no way concerned. That Americans are performing the most important part of the work is a source of pride to their countrymen.

The Department of Agriculture has taken the first step in what should develop into a vigorous campaign to induce the planters of the South to raise food instead of cotton next year. A statement of the Department says: "Cotton is low and likely to remain so. Food products are high and likely to remain so. A man, therefore, who has all his acreage in cotton finds himself compelled to exchange a low-priced article for a high-priced one. This is not profitable." To make the planters realize this and take the necessary steps to help themselves, is the real solution of the cotton problem. The campaign should be taken up by the officials of each of the cotton States.

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## The Camel's Back.

Probably the most striking characteristic of the American people is their capacity for assimilation. As they and their country are the greatest melting pot of the races that the world has ever known, so are they elastically capable of adjusting themselves speedily to wide and sudden fiscal, economic and political change. Seemingly, their wonderful assimilative power is capable of withstanding or adjusting itself to almost any shock or strain. But there must be a limit to this boundless capacity and we must be somewhere within striking distance of that limit at this moment. Contemplate the tests that are being applied, collectively and simultaneously, to our adaptability and resource.

We started to revise our tariff, recast our system of banking and currency and lease business activity with extensions of the Sherman law and a Federal trade commission clothed with inquisitorial and regulative power. Any one of these processes through the mills of preparation, legislation and adjustment was well calculated to be disturbing. Repeated experience has shown that tariff revision halts and disjoins business for an extended period previous and subsequent to the actual operation itself, and the last adventure in this field of political and economic endeavor was distinctly repetition of the older ones. And the uncertainty, doubt and time-marking which characterize manufacturers and merchants from the inception of tariff revision to slow readjustment, have manifested themselves among bankers in expectation of and preparation for the new banking system and its new method and new regulation which are to be theirs. And all men of business affairs, while actively and directly concerned with one or both of these two great legislative operations, have not been without concern for the third extension of the Sherman law and control by trade commission.

Over protest and against counsel President Wilson insisted that this unusual trinity of policies be carried to operation in continuous session of Congress, but this calculation did not and could not contemplate a fourth strain upon the assimilative and adaptive capacity of this country. With the people halted in the middle of his reconstructive program came the titanic struggle in Europe, with its tremendous direct and reflect action upon the affairs of the American people. International banking was suspended, foreign trade halted and its goods backed up on our terminals and railways, the great cotton industry halted, our transportation system seriously embarrassed, copper hit and a score of industries curtailed.

The pinch of depression became the punch of crisis, and to face and parry it there was a rally that will accord high place in the patriotic annals of our people. Partisanship and prejudice dissolved before the common danger and political and civic leaders in common counsel. The drain of our gold was stopped, emergency currency was invoked, ship registry opened, war risks provided, protective measures advanced for the Southland and King Cotton, and other expedients considered and weighed. We have filled and stand on guard at the breaches in our walls of defense and are in relative security, but the strain upon our resource, the demand for wise counsel and swift and unerring action, is as great, if not greater, than the day the first guns were trained on Liege. Prolonged war or early peace, the difficult road ahead is a long one. Europe is destroying its capacity to purchase our goods and shooting away the margin of wealth that meant investment in our industry.

There remains in governmental action and personal duty much that must be done to protect our people, and two of these tasks press with constantly growing insistence. One is the financing of the cotton industry, the other relief for our railways. One bears with especial force upon the people of a great subdivision of our country, the other bears upon all of our people. One is our greatest industry, the other our greatest interest. The railways are something more than mere carriers of freight and passengers—their bonds and promises-to-pay are the fiber of our financial fabric.

We Americans are a strong race of men and united a great people. And we are a wonderfully assimilative people—but there are limits. THE PATIENT CAMEL HAD HIS.

## Early Payment of Plaza Awards.

The President can be depended upon to promptly attach his signature to the Plaza awards resolution adopted by the House and Senate. No time should be lost in appointing the new commission to purchase the property involved, and as none of the original awards except that to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad have ever been questioned, its work should be but little more than a formality. Presumably the money appropriated a year and a half ago for the purchase of the Plaza property will be available for the new proceedings, so that there appears no reason why the people who have been waiting so long for money owed to them by the government should not be paid within a few weeks. The Senate, months ago, after the property owners had made personal appeal to the President for relief, adopted a measure providing a solution of the problem almost identical with that which Chairman Ben Johnson finally permitted to go through the House, except that Mr. Johnson's plan arrives at the same result by a more circuitous process.

## A National Question.

According to the record the railroad officials now in Washington are making representation for the railways. But their real case is not marked by such limits of cause and clients. The cause set down in the record has spread and broadened until its wide reach embraces the interest of all the American people. The American people—they are the real petitioners before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

This cause has ceased to be merely a railroad question. It has become a national question and no American can escape the consequences of the decision of the official board to which the formal plea for relief has been addressed.

The interest at stake has so grown and broadened, has so sharpened, that the decision shall mean security or danger.

Everywhere Americans are striving for the removal of the restraints and barriers imposed by the war. They want back the facility for earning their livelihood. They want to receive their dues and to pay their debts. Foreign financial problems must be cleared, our exchanges must be opened, and the business of our people must be brought back to normal.

Farmer, banker, artisan, laborer, merchant, and manufacturer are equally and interdependently sharers of a common necessity. They are all under its pressure. They all must depend upon the railways and it is idle to talk of their relief until the railroads

have been given just award in the matter of railway rates.

Our railroads have had a long period of starvation. Between regulation, hostile legislation, some bad and dishonest management, higher prices, discouragement of investors and prolonged depression they came lean to the crisis of war.

Concession will avert disaster but not safeguard their future. Their future constitutes another great national question whose solution will be safety sought in sound economics than in minor politics. "They are," says President Wilson, "indispensable to our whole economic life, and railway securities are at the very heart of most investments, large and small, public and private, by individuals and by institutions. I am confident that there will be active and earnest cooperation in this matter, perhaps the one common interest of our whole industrial life. But the emergency is, in fact, extraordinary, and where there is a manifest common interest we ought all of us to speak out in its behalf, and I am glad to join with you in calling attention to it. This is a time for all to stand together in united effort to comprehend every interest and serve and sustain it in every legitimate way."

President Wilson is a party to this common cause. He too is petitioner.

## Two Men.

By JOHN D. BARRY.

FOR most of my life I have known two brothers, curiously alike and curiously unlike. There is only one year's difference in their ages. They are often taken for twins. Sometimes they are taken for each other. They have many traits and tastes in common. They dress alike. They have the same quality of voice. Their friends, hearing them speak in the next room, would not know for certain which was which. They went to school together and to college. They are now law partners and highly successful. Apparently their paths are the same. Actually their paths are far apart. One is generally liked. The other is generally disliked.

And yet, you see, they had the same start, the same inheritance, the same surrounding influences. Those who know them well agree that they are utterly different. They are very upsetting to those of us who like to theorize about life, about the influence of environment and heredity. They upset those of us who think that heredity is everything. They upset those of us who think that heredity is of little account, almost negligible, and that environment is virtually everything.

What is the explanation? Honestly, I don't know. But I have a theory.

Some rustic philosopher has said there is little difference between men, but that difference is very important. The saying has given me what I like to consider a clue to the meaning of the difference between those two brothers. The difference began when they were children, perhaps, when they were babes. It was all a matter of sight. One saw, but not with perfect clearness. The other saw clearly. The difference in their sight was almost imperceptible. Perhaps only a specialist could detect it and that specialist would have to be far more keen, far more subtle, than the keenest and most subtle of professional oculists. For this oculist would have to deal with finer human agents than physical eyes. He would have to deal with the eyes of the mind, with nerves running down through character into the mysterious unexplored regions of the soul.

In recent years oculists have found out wonderful things about eyes. Among other things they have found that eyes are closely related to sickness and health. Many diseases, including one of the most awful of all diseases, nervous prostration, may frequently be traced to defective eyes. Many people who don't know they are sick but know something is wrong, something that causes them intense physical and mental depression, are suffering merely from defective sight. All such people may be brought back to health by correct glasses.

In this regard the eyes of the mind are exactly like the eyes of the body. But disease in the eyes of the mind is far more serious than disease in the eyes of the body. And it